

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. AUSTRALIA: WHITLAM SACKED--FOR NOW

CITING THE INABILITY OF PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM TO PUSH HIS MONEY SUPPLY BILLS THROUGH THE SENATE, QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR JOHN KERR DISMISSED HIM AND ASKED OPPOSITION LEADER MALCOLM FRASER TO HEAD A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT UNTIL ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD. THE MOVE'S ANNOUNCEMENT CAUSED AN UPROAR IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH VOTED DOWN FRASER'S MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE DISSOLUTION AND PASSED A WHITLAM MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. (UNCLASSIFIED) CANBERRA 7568, 11/11.)

2. SAHARA: TALKING IT OVER

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EMBASSY RABAT REPORTS THE FOLLOWING SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS:

--THE GOM ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 10 THAT MOROCCAN-SPANISH "OFFICIAL TALKS" WILL BEGIN IN MADRID WITHIN 48 HOURS.

--THE PRESS REPORTS A STATEMENT BY INFORMATION MINISTER BENHIMA THAT THE MARCHERS WILL AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE ORIGINAL STAGING AREA ON THE SAHARAN BORDER, RETURNING TO THE SAHARA IF THE TALKS FAIL.

--MOROCCAN-F POLISARIO CLASHES ARE OCCURRING ON SAHARAN SOIL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE CURRENTLY PREVAILING IN MOROCCO COULD CHANGE IF THE PULLBACK COMES TO BE VIEWED AS A MOROCCAN DEFEAT. THE TREND IN SPANISH-MOROCCAN NEGOTIATIONS APPEARS POSITIVE BUT, IF THE TALKS FAIL, HASSAN MAY WELL PERCEIVE A NEED FOR US HELP.

MEANWHILE:

--EMBASSY ALGIERS REPORTS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME BOUMEDIENNE DIRECTLY ACCUSED THE US OF PRESSURING SPAIN TO TURN OVER THE SAHARA TO MOROCCO.

--EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT REPORTS THAT MAURITANIA, TREATED TO FRENETIC HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMATIC WOING FROM BOTH ALGERIA AND MOROCCO OVER THE WEEKEND, IS ENJOYING THE ATTENTION AND KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN.
(CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 5455; (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
ALGIERS 3306 AND NOUAKCHOTT 2310 AND (SECRET)
RABAT 5440 (EXDIS), 11/10.)

3. ANGOLA: PORTUGAL BACKING AWAY FROM MPLA?

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT CABINET SECRETARY AND AZEVEDO CONFIDANT MANUEL SA MACHADO SAID THAT DURING THE NOVEMBER 9-10 GOP MEETING ON ANGOLAN RECOGNITION:

--CRESPO, MELO ANTUNES, COSTA GOMES, AND CUNHAL
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URGED RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA ALONE WHILE AZEVEDO, SOARES, FOREIGN COMMERCE MINISTER CAMPINOS, DOMESTIC COMMERCE MINISTER MOTA, AND INFORMATION MINISTER SANTOS ARGUED FORCEFULLY FOR NEUTRALITY.

--AZEVEDO DECLARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA ALONE; IF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DOES SO, THERE WILL BE A BREAK BETWEEN IT AND THE

GOVERNMENT.

SA MACHADO GUESSES THAT WHILE THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL PROBABLY TEND TOWARD A PRO-MPLA POSITION, A DEFINITE DECISION MAY NOT EMERGE BECAUSE OF AZEVEDO'S STRONG OPPOSITION AND COSTA GOMES' PENCHANT FOR PROCRASTINATION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PRO-NEUTRALITY GROUP APPEARS TO HAVE STAVED OFF RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA, BUT EVENTUAL RECOGNITION OF IT IN SOME WAY, AS ONE OF THREE MOVEMENTS, REMAINS A POSSIBILITY. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 6657 (LIMDIS), 11/10.)

4. BELIZE: MEXICO CHAMPIONS A THIRD WAY

AMBASSADOR JOVA REPORTS THAT ON NOVEMBER 10 MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA ASKED HIM FOR ACTIVE US SUPPORT FOR A MEXICAN COMPROMISE RESOLUTION ON BELIZE CALLING FOR:

--A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UN CHARTER, PLUS INCLUSION OF THE SUBJECT IN NEXT YEAR'S UNGA AGENDA;

--RENEWED BRITISH-GUATEMALAN NEGOTIATIONS AND ABSTENTION FROM UNILATERAL ACTION BY BOTH THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND ALL OTHER UN MEMBERS;

RABASA TOLD JOVA THAT:

--THE DISPUTE IS AN ACUTE PROBLEM FOR MEXICO SINCE ECHEVERRIA'S UPCOMING THREE DAY VISIT TO GUATEMALA WILL PROBABLY COINCIDE WITH THE UNGA VOTE.

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--TALKS WITH GUATEMALAN OFFICIALS LEAD THE GOM TO BELIEVE GUATEMALA WILL VOTE FOR THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL. (CONFIDENTIAL) MEXICO 9860 (LIMDIS), 11/10.)

5. ARGENTINA: MRS. PERON IN AN UNTENABLE POSITION

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THAT MRS. PERON, HAVING LOST ALMOST ALL HER PUBLIC SUPPORT, REMAINS VIRTUALLY INCOMMUNICADO IN HER HOSPITAL ROOM AND REFUSES TO RESIGN. CIVILIAN/CONSTITUTIONALIST FORCES ARE STILL UNDECIDED AS TO HOW TO REMOVE HER, THE EMBASSY NOTES, BUT CLEARLY MUST FIND A WAY SOON OR SEE THE MILITARY TAKE OVER. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 7404, 11/10.) KISSINGER

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